

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/640,687

Examiner

(Iraj) Alan Rahimi

Applicant(s)

OZAKI, YOSHIKO

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to October 29, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7,9-12,15-17,19,20 and 22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 August 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.


Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


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TECHNOLOGY CENTER

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Chris Lipp on November 29, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

15. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The image output processor ~~for receiving image data transmitted from a plurality of data processors connected to the image output processor and for outputting the image data to a printer having a plurality of sorter bins, the image output processor comprising:~~ as claimed in claim 1, wherein the data transmission source identifying means for uniquely identifying identifies one of the data processors as [[a]] the data transmission source of image the data received by the image output processor by extracting originating device data from tag data transmitted received by the image output processor prior to the image data received by the image output processor; and

~~sorter bin determining means for determining which sorter bin to output the image data received from the plurality of data processors based on the data transmission source identified by the data transmission source identifying means.~~

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16. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The image output processing method for receiving image data transmitted from a plurality of data processors connected to an image output processor and outputting the image data to a printer having a plurality of sorter bins, the image output processing method comprising the steps of: as claimed in claim 11, wherein the step of uniquely identifying one of the data processors as [[a]] the data transmission source of image data received by the image output processor by comprises extracting originating device data from tag data transmitted received by the image output processor prior to the image data and uniquely identifying one of the data processors as the data transmission source based on the originating device data received by the image output processor; and

~~determining which sorter bin to output the image data received from the plurality of data processors based on the data transmission source which has been identified.~~

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-7, 9-12, 15-17, 19-20 and 22 are allowed in respect to the amendment filed on October 29, 2004 in response to the After Final and the examiner's amendment prepared above.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art and the prior art of record specifically Katakura, Ohara and Yamada do not disclose uniquely identifying one of the data processors according to a communication protocol used to transmit the data as similarly argued by the applicant on pages 11 and 12 of the October 29 amendment.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to (Iraj) Alan Rahimi whose telephone number is 703-306-3473. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L Coles can be reached on 703-305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Alan Rahimi
November 29, 2004


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